

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03
OMB-01 L-03 /058 W
-----042125Z 026429 /73

P R 041753Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1254
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EPAP EEC GATT UK
SUBJECT: MFA RENEWAL

REF: (A) STATE 38558; (B) LONDON 3158; (C) LONDON 3514

1. E/C MIN CALLED ON DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY MINISTER OF STATE ALAN WILLIAMS MARCH 4, IN ABSENCE OF INDUSTRY MINISTER VARLEY, TO DISCUSS U.S. VIEWS ON MFA RENEWAL. IN PRESENTING OUR POSITION, E/C MIN UNDERLINED THE SAME POINTS THAT WERE MADE TO TRADE MINISTER DELL AND FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY BUTLER (REPORTED REFS B AND C).

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2. WILLIAMS RESPONDED ALONG THE SAME SUBSTANTIVE OF THAT WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY. HE STRESSED IN PARTICULAR THE NECESSITY OF ACHIEVING (A) MEASURES TO MINIMIZE CUMULATIVE DISRUPTION AND (B) REDUCED GROWTH PERCENTAGES IN AREAS OF HIGH IMPORT PENETRATION. HOWEVER, WILLIAMS STATED THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WITH CONSIDERABLY GREATER INTENSITY THAN OTHER SPOKESMEN. HE SAID

THAT AS A RESULT OF LARGE SCALE IMPORT-CAUSED UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE BRITISH TEXTILE INDUSTRY "THE GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED THE LIMIT OF POLITICAL PRESSURE IT CAN TAKE." WILLIAMS STATED CLEARLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THE WIDER DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATIONS SURROUNDING MFA RENEWAL, BUT THAT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IS SUCH THAT "THERE IS NOT THE REMOTEST CHANCE OF A BRITISH GOVERNMENT TAKING A SOFT LINE." IN FACT, WILLIAMS SAID, PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE "UNILATERAL ACTION" ON TEXTILE IMPORTS MAY GET BEYOND CONTROL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR IF SOME SATISFACTION IS NOT FOUND.

3. COMMENT: IT REMAINS THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE BRITISH WILL STAY DUG IN, AT LEAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, TO DEFEND THEIR POSITION THAT SOME FORMULA MUST BE FOUND TO CHECK THE VOLUME OF SENSITIVE TEXTILE IMPORTS THEY ABSORB. THEY ARE NOT COMMITTED TO ANY SPECIFIC FORM OF SOLUTION. THEY BELIEVE TIME IS ON THEIR SIDE AND WILL NOT FEEL UNDER ANY PARTICULAR PRESSURE TO REACH AN AGREED EC MANDATE AT THE MARCH 8 COUNCIL MEETING UNLESS IT IS ONE WHICH CAN BE WELL DEFENDED IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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